

intended to crush the American spirit; instead, they galvanized it to new strengths. We came together as a nation to grieve. We came together as a nation to bury our dead and to care for those who were hurt. We came together as a nation to rebuild. And we came together as a nation to pursue those who were responsible for the attacks and bring them to justice. We have accomplished a great deal with respect to those missions, but we have so much more to do. We must never become complacent. We must never lose our resolve.

We have a larger mission. President John F. Kennedy was on his way to deliver a speech at the Trade Mart in Dallas when he was assassinated on November 22, 1963. He was going to say:

We in this country, in this generation, are—by destiny rather than choice—the watchmen on the walls of world freedom. We ask, therefore, that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility, that we may exercise our strength with wisdom and restraint, and that we may achieve in our time and for all time the ancient vision of “peace on earth, good will toward men.” That must always be our goal, and the righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength. For as was written long ago: “except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”

Being “watchmen on the walls of world freedom” is an awesome responsibility. There are times when the responsibility seems more of a burden than a privilege. There are times when the world’s problems seem absolutely intractable and we grow weary of it all. There are times when we as Americans disagree whether or how we should meet that responsibility.

Today, both houses of Congress are involved in a debate about the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action—JCPOA—with respect to Iran, a State sponsor of terrorism with nuclear ambitions. We have serious disagreements about whether to support the JCPOA. It is important, as we debate this issue, to remember that no one among us is clairvoyant or has a total grasp of the truth; no ideology or philosophy has a monopoly on wisdom. No party has complete political acumen. And no group has exclusive rights to use the word “patriot”.

If we want to honor the men and women on Flight 93 and on the three other hijacked jets, if we want to honor the people in the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon, if we want to honor the brave first responders who were climbing up the steps of the Twin Towers as people were streaming down the steps, and if we want to honor the service men and women who have given their lives in defense of our Nation, let us remember that what unites us as Americans is far more important than what divides us on particular issues, even an issue as existentially crucial as restraining Iran’s worst intentions and lawlessness. We are all Americans, each with the desire to see our families, our communities, and our Nation prosper, and to promote the American

ideals of peace and freedom and justice to every corner of the Earth.

About 100 miles east of Shanksville, there is another field consecrated by the blood of Americans who gave “the last full measure of devotion”—Gettysburg. As President Abraham Lincoln said, it is our responsibility to dedicate ourselves “to the unfinished work” which others “have thus far so nobly advanced”. It is our responsibility to dedicate ourselves to the “great task” remaining before us, and that task is “a new birth of freedom”.

As we remember and mourn those who died in the 9/11 attacks and those who have died since that dreadful day 14 years ago serving as “watchmen on the walls of world freedom”, let us meet our awesome responsibility united, as Americans, all of us patriots in our own way, acknowledging that it is our privilege and it is our destiny.

#### OBSERVING THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, Sunday, September 13 marks the 21st anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA. I have zero tolerance for domestic violence. No woman in this Nation should live in fear for her safety or the safety of her children. These victims need to have access to resources that can provide them with help. That is why I was proud to cosponsor this legislation when it was first enacted in 1994, and I am proud to have fought for every single one of its reauthorizations since.

The far-reaching impact of this legislation cannot be stressed enough. It has impacted the lives of millions of people—playing a crucial role in our communities by providing important services to those who are most vulnerable. Since the original VAWA legislation, millions of women have called the National Domestic Violence hotline who were desperate, who were fearful for their lives. When they called that number, they got help. I know that it saved lives.

As vice chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science, CJS, Appropriations Subcommittee, I fought to include \$479 million in funding in the fiscal year 2016 CJS bill for the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women—the highest funding level ever for these programs.

What is it that these programs do? They coordinate community approaches to end violence and sexual assault. They fund victims’ services like shelters and a national toll-free crisis hotline. They provide counseling to victims of rape and sexual assault. They help prevent sexual assaults from happening on college campuses. They also fund legal assistance to victims to be able to get court orders to be able to protect themselves from the abuser or from the stalker.

Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking are crimes

of epidemic proportions, exacting terrible costs on individual lives and our communities. Twenty-five percent of U.S. women report that they have been physically assaulted by an intimate partner during their lifetimes, one in six have been the victims of rape or attempted rape, and the cost of domestic violence exceeds \$8 billion each year. These are numbers and statistics, but they also represent real people.

In my home State of Maryland, VAWA programs have personally impacted people’s lives. For example, “Rita” who was married to “Jamie”—who was physically abusive to her, and then sadly to their four-year-old son, and had been arrested on several occasions for dealing drugs—was able to get important legal assistance through a VAWA-funded program.

Rita obtained a protective order against Jamie, pressed criminal charges against him, and he was found guilty of assault. Jamie is now where he belongs, locked behind bars.

The Sexual Assault Legal Institute, SALI, a program of the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, was able to represent Rita in her divorce proceedings and custody case. Although this case remains ongoing, through VAWA, the SALI program made it possible for Rita to get the important legal services she needed to protect herself and her son.

This story is just one of the many reasons why it is so important that we continue to invest in programs to combat domestic abuse and sexual assault, and help enable victims to rebuild their lives. This is why I want to recognize 21 years of VAWA as law today, and remember the countless number of lives it has impacted throughout the country. VAWA has put into place so many invaluable programs that are effective and relied upon by so many women and their families in Maryland and across the nation. That is the reason why I will continue to fight for it.

#### REMEMBERING BORIS NEMTSOV

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, last night I was honored to pay tribute to a dear friend and personal hero, the late Boris Nemtsov. Boris Nemtsov was the Russian opposition leader, former Deputy Prime Minister, and human rights activist who was murdered in February.

I ask unanimous consent to have my remarks printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen, it’s a wonderful privilege to introduce a personal hero—whose courage, selflessness and idealism I find awe-inspiring—and ask him to accept an award on behalf of another personal hero, a man of very great courage and selflessness and idealism, Boris Nemtsov.

Vladimir Kara-Murza is deputy leader and co-founder with Boris of the People’s Freedom Party. He is the leading coordinator of Open Russia. In the U.S., Vladimir was a prominent and very effective advocate for